- Support product group promotion within each sector: *e.g.*, within engineering products, segments like cycles, automobiles etc.
- Support particular brands which have achieved world class quality and performance standards.
- Support domestic awareness generation programme directed at quality and high business ethics.

The scheme is also applicable to promotion of India's apparel and textile brand in the markets abroad, including to Latin America.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government is keeping a watch on the imports and would strive to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. In case any unfair trade practices come to the notice, action, if necessary, under anti-dumping, countervailing measures etc. of the WTO could be taken.

Export of textile products

†1915. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textiles industry being the labour intensive industry of the country is also a value-added industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any proposal regarding action plan for encouragement for increasing the export of the textile products for development of textiles industry, if so the outline thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Textile sector is the largest employer after the agriculture sector and also covers various value addition processes from production of fibre to readymades, through intermediate stages of manufacture of yarn, fabric and the processing and finishing of fabric.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Acknowledging this fact, the Government have undertaken the following major initiatives for developing the textile industry and encouraging exports of textile products:—

(i) De-reservation of woven readymade garment sector from SSI.

(ii) Announcement in three consecutive Budgets aiming *inter-alia* at a rationalisation of the duty structure in the textile sector and a reduction of costs of machinery critical for its technology upgradation;

(iii) Launching of schemes of Apparel Parks for Exports and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;

(iv) Implementation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and Technology Mission on the Cotton;

(v) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions;

(vi) Launching of a programme for modernisation of weaving capacities in the decentralised powerloom sector; and

(vii) Implementation of schemes in the handloom and handicraft sectors to suport the production, marketing and export of exclusive items that draw upon the heritage and tradition of excellent craftsmanship.

Strengthen the National Cotton Corporation Office in Karnataka

1916. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent to strengthen the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. office at Raichur in Karnataka during 2002-03;

(b) whether there is any proposal to shift the above office to some other place; and

(c) the amount earmarked during 2003-04 to take up new activities by the above Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The branch office at Raichur has